

National Park, fire management and the transition in Indian Affairs when Assistant Secretary Deer was leaving DOI and Loretta Avent was leaving the White House.

Babbitt said he interacted with Ickes because Ickes was the Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House who was in the line of his responsibilities, especially on resource management issues, although Babbitt said there was never an Indian-related resource issue that Babbitt discussed with Ickes. He described Ickes as being entitled to intervene anywhere on the domestic side of the agenda and having regular involvement in managing crises. Babbitt said he was unfamiliar with the members of Ickes's staff.

As to Ickes's role in fund-raising, Babbitt said it never crossed his mind. "[M]y knowledge was zero."⁴²⁵ Babbitt said he is "not in the fundraising business, never [has] been and [is] not even close to it."⁴²⁶ He said he came to Washington to run the Interior Department. He said he was not aware in the winter/spring of 1995 of whether Ickes was involved, on behalf of the White House, in coordinating with the DNC to raise funds on a large scale. He was not aware at that time of whether the DNC and the White House were eager to raise a substantial amount of money as quickly as possible. He said he was not aware at that time whether Ickes was involved in raising money for the presidential campaign, but he allowed that he may have read it in passing if it were reported in the newspapers.⁴²⁷

⁴²⁵OIC Babbitt Int. at 7.

⁴²⁶*Id.* at 1.

⁴²⁷Babbitt acknowledged that he did participate in some political and campaign events in his role as a Cabinet officer, but he stressed his desire to avoid them. For instance, records show that Babbitt was scheduled to attend a White House political meeting relating to the 1996 presidential re-election campaign on May 15, 1995, followed by a DNC dinner for Cabinet
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